

We claim:

1. An improved mowing-equipment roller with a plurality of roller sections having end connectors for coupling adjacent roller sections, wherein the improvement comprises a gap in said end connectors and a resilient sleeve covering said gap and urging said adjacent roller sections apart.

2. The roller of Claim 1, wherein said end connectors consist of interlocking connectors.

3. The roller of Claim 2, wherein said interlocking connectors include mating fingers and grooves.

4. The roller of Claim 3, wherein said gap is between said mating fingers and grooves of the interlocking connectors.

5. The roller of Claim 1, wherein said end connectors consist of slidable connectors.

6. The roller of Claim 5, wherein said slidable connectors include support members for the resilient sleeve.

7. The roller of Claim 6, wherein said gap is between said support members.

8. A method for preventing binding caused by thermal expansion in a mowing-equipment roller having a plurality of roller sections and end connectors for coupling adjacent roller sections, comprising the following steps:

5        providing a gap in said end connectors and a resilient sleeve covering said gap and urging said adjacent sections apart.

9. The method of Claim 8, wherein said end connectors consist of interlocking connectors.

10      10. The method of Claim 9, wherein said interlocking connectors include mating fingers and grooves.

11. The method of Claim 10, wherein said gap is between said mating fingers and grooves of the interlocking connectors.

15      12. The method of Claim 8, wherein said end connectors consist of slidable connectors.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein said slidable connectors include support members for the resilient sleeve.

14. The method of Claim 6, wherein said gap is between said support members.